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Master Accreditation of the Genealogical Institute

"Proper Obituaries..."

BY

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

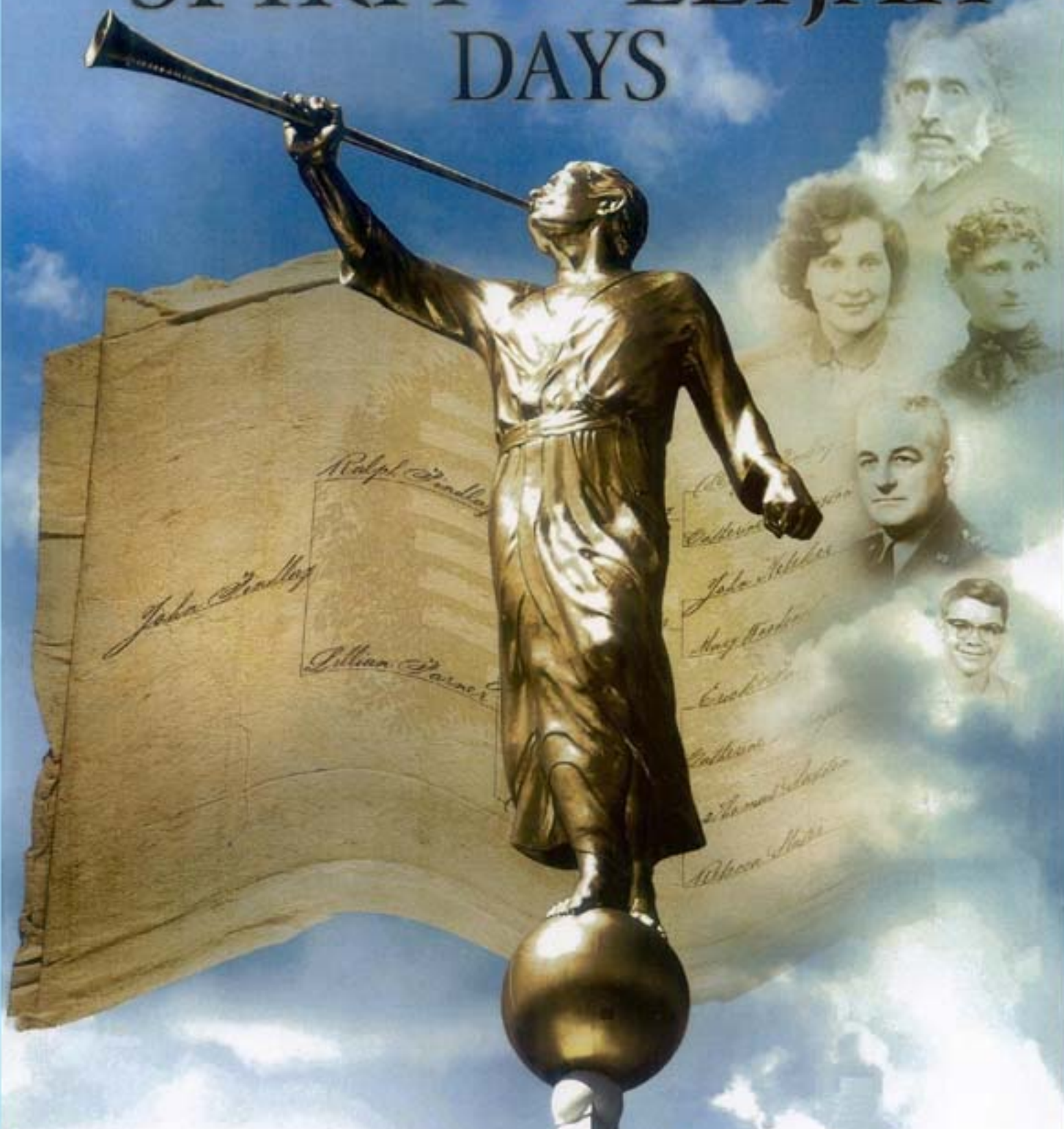
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M.A.G.I. Course #13 educates the student to the proper understanding of collecting, correlating and writing obituaries Mr. Pratt highlights the reasons and procedures for collecting data concerning a decedent and instructs the student in the "proper techniques" of composing an informative and respectful obituary.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

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SPIRIT OF ELIJAH DAYS



"BEHOLD, I WILL SEND YOU ELIJAH THE PROPHET BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY OF THE LORD: AND HE SHALL TURN THE HEART OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN, AND THE HEART OF THE CHILDREN TO THEIR FATHERS, LEST I COME AND SMITE THE EARTH WITH A CURSE. MALACHI 4:5-6

Genealogical Institute's Master Accreditation Course
COURSE LESSON #13 "Proper Obituaries..."

by *Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.* © 2014 Revised 2015
Genealogy without documentation is...mythology

OBJECTIVE

M.A.G.I. Course #13 educates the student to the proper understanding of collecting, correlating and writing obituaries. Mr. Pratt highlights the reasons and procedures for collecting data concerning a decedent and instructs the student in the "proper techniques" of composing an informative and respectful obituary.

Most obituaries I have read fall considerably short as to giving a good detailed description of the life events of the dearly departed.

In this course lesson, I will address the procedures, techniques and methods one can use prior, during and after the life of the subject in preparation of an obituary.

SOME OF THE PROBLEMS...

I can attribute poorly written or a lack of published obituaries to several factors.

[1] The biggest problem prohibiting good obituaries is the local newspaper's procedure of charging **by the word**, from a family member or friend to print an obituary. This service should be on a pro bono basis.

Some families do or did not have the financial ability to afford what they wanted to print concerning their loved ones. Because newspapers charge by the word, this forces the loved one to be brief when writing or creating an obituary.

If the newspapers do not feel this is a service to their community, they can afford to provide on a pro bono basis, then in my opinion, **local churches** should be the benefactor and pay the newspapers for their church member's obituary that is...if the decedent was a member of the church in **good standing**.

If the decedent was a member in good standing, indicates they were a tithe payer and possibly contributed to the church building fund or offered other donations beneficial to the church and the community. Through their association and participation, the decedent may have contributed, time, volunteer work and/or aid in support of the church and their community.

As a courtesy, their church should foot the bill for a decent obituary; after all, these obituaries only happened once in a great while and the cost of these obituaries would not deplete the financial resources of the church's coffers.

[2] Another reason obituaries are lacking in substance...back in the day, some people were a proud and secretive generation and did not want friends, family and/or neighbors to know who they were, what they were doing or where they were from, unless they could gain financial favor in the eyes of the community.

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Many moved into new cities and states and never did disclose their origins or previous locations let alone their family history. Some were criminals wanted by authorities and even changed their names in their newly "adopted" communities. Some even avoided the census taker altogether so their whereabouts would or could not be established.

Without the mandated governmental records we enjoy today, we would not be able to identify their parents and even with those records they have their limitations. It was only after the 1800's we were able to assemble families and build bridges to parents based on those records.

Prior to the 1800's, some newspapers, wills and bibles were our only resources in helping to identify family members. This is why our research in America prior to the 1800's is sketchy at best.

Obituaries were of some help however, most of them were lacking in critical data. Failure to write a good comprehensive detailed obituary shackles the family history researcher.

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK...

One indubitable fact...we are all going to die. With this known anticipated event, how is it we are **all** caught so unprepared when a loved one passes?

No one, I know of, can avoid the inevitable and yet we all are surprised when it happens and we as a community are unprepared and so to say "caught off guard".

I believe the first thing we should ask of our elderly, is for them to write, record and/or verbally compose a short history of the main events in their lives.

Granted, some deaths are unexpected and catch everyone by surprise but luckily the majority of deaths are not of this nature.

If we can get a good outline of the individual's life while they are living, we will have the time before they die to validate, verify and prove the dates, places and events they have depicted in their life history.

So, the first number one rule in writing a good obituary is...being prepared and having the living prepare their own obituary prior to their deaths. Do not ask them to write their obituary, but ask them to write a short family history from their birth, youth, and adult life including dates, places and events.

They should include their education, work history, and any other forms of activities the individual may have participated.

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This short mini-bio should include membership in clubs, organizations and any military activity during their lifetime. Ask them to include their relationships, especially those resulting in marriage.

To help you in your pursuit of an individual's family history, I have prepared a course lesson as follows available free on the Internet.

I created a process known as the Cradle to Grave Profile (C2G) Profile to help organize and correlate events in a person's life. I have found this process so beneficial; I created a course instructing interested parties how to create these profiles.

This course is called **Master Accreditation of the Genealogical Institute M.A.G.I. Course Lesson #5 The Anatomy of a Cradle to Grave Profile (C2G)** and can be accessed at the following website...

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL25439086M/Master_Accreditation_of_the_Genealogical_Institute_M.A.G.I._Course_Lesson_5

Be mindful Internet Archive where this course is housed, has a problem with their rendering so to access these courses one should download the PDF section to read these courses.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDELINES...

A good obituary should state the full name of the deceased including the birth surname if female; list the date of birth, the date of death, the location of the birth and the location of the death of the individual.

This information should be followed by the names of the parents including the birth surname of the mother.

I have written another course addressing the issue of the proper method of listing the birth surname of a female. This course can be accessed at the following location...

Master Accreditation of the Genealogical Institute M.A.G.I. Course Lesson #4 A Rose by any other name...

https://openlibrary.org/books/OL25439082M/Master_Accreditation_of_the_Genealogical_Institute_M.A.G.I._Course_Lesson_4_A_Rose_by_any_other_name

Continuing, the foundation of the obituary could have information about the cause of death and length of illness if the death didn't result because of an accident. Dwelling on the cause of death is of no value and does not contribute or enhance the life of anyone.

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This should be followed by the spousal information if any, including full name and if predeceased, the location of the burial, date and location of their marriage.

If the deceased was married more than once then **all** of the spouses should be listed.

There should be a brief history of the subjects' contributions, occupations and achievements followed by the survivor's list.

The survivors should be listed with relationship to the deceased followed by spouses and location of residency.

There should be a notifying statement identifying the funeral home and/or named officiator disclosing the location of the viewing with date and time.

Interment should be listed with the date and name of the cemetery with address location.

As a researcher, where some obituaries have incorporated some of the above principles in their records, they have given me a road map to tracking "lost" children, grandchildren and their spouses including their residency locations.

But, these types of obituaries are far and few between and they can when written properly offer critical information concerning the decedent.

WHY ARE OBITUARIES IMPORTANT?

The following are suggestions offering several reasons a good comprehensive obituary is of great importance to the family historian.

[1] First, Identifying the deceased and any revealing previously unknown names

Sometimes additional "family names" or nicknames are revealed concerning the decedent, which were previously unknown to the researcher.

This is very helpful because some legal records have used only nicknames of the deceased and discovering additional names they may have been known by while living, might help the researcher to link them to those records.

[2] Second, Establishing birth and death dates

If the obituary has included the birth date of the deceased, and included the death date, this takes the guesswork out of your research. Sometimes, a death certificate was not filed and the obituary is the only record concerning these dates.

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[3] Third, Establishing birth and death locations

Equally important, are the birth location of the decedent and the death location. This establishes the residency of the parents when the decedent was born and the death location establishes the residency of the decedent when they died...especially, if they died out of state or at a relative's home.

[4] Fourth, Disclosing martial relationships of the deceased

This area is where many of the authors of obituaries fail to disclose all they know concerning the spouses of the deceased. There is such a bias by family members in the family history research community against their deceased relative's spouses.

When writing obituaries, some children leave out the prior marriages of their parents, either due to ignorance or prejudice against the decedent's prior spouses. It is hard for us humans to be partial when it comes to our parent's prior marriages even deliberately overlooking some of the facts.

We judge those failed marriages based on hearsay, instead of possessing a clear personal witness to those marital circumstances and the reasons for their demise.

I'm not talking about personal first hand knowledge and experience with one or more of those previous spouses, but I am referring to children who are born after-the-fact and only have one parents' testimony to base their opinion and conclusions.

Due to this prejudice and misjudgment, many prior spouses are left out of the obituary however, the author in their arrogance, sometimes includes step and half sibling names in the obituary leaving the reader to wonder, where did those children come from?

Thereby, requiring the family history researcher to spend a great deal of time investigating prior marriages when the author of the obituary possessed the knowledge and could have expedited the research if they had not been more inconsiderate.

To me, prior marriages are a mute subject since the decedent at this point does not care what is written about their prior relationships as long as the author exercises a deferential attitude.

[5] Fifth, Revealing family survivors and their current residency

Knowing whom of the decedent's family survives and their residency location is vital to researching the descendants of the decedent. Knowing their location allows the researcher to focus their research in those locations. Also, knowing the names of the surviving relatives establishes links to the decedent.

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Sometimes the obituary is the only reference naming children and siblings of the decedent, especially when the children have been born after census dates and the living descendants of the deceased are unknown.

[6] Sixth Disclosing military participation

If the deceased was a participant in one of the armed forces, this knowledge allows the researcher to focus their research on obtaining copies of the decedent's military record and history. Military papers contain vital information concerning the decedent; it's like a snapshot of the decedent's life at that particular moment of time.

Military applications contain information only known to the decedent at the time they completed the application because of a draft or by volunteering for military service.

Not only do military records reveal the decedent's birth date, age, birth location and residency but also reveals marriages, spousal names, births and children's names, births and residency locations.

Discharge papers reveal military campaigns, locations, medals and awards, achievements and rank advancements. They also reveal military enlistment dates with locations as well as discharge dates and locations.

[7], Seventh Personal achievements concerning occupations, hobbies and accomplishments

Knowing various occupations of the deceased might help you focus on records from his employment locations. Personnel jackets if the company kept any, may reveal dates, places and spouses at the particular time the decedent was employed with their firm.

Any other forms of activity the deceased may have participated might reveal clubs, organizations and meetings he may have attended during their lifetime. Membership in organizations such as the Elks Club, Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club and the Shriners are distinguished organizations dedicated to serving their local community.

Personal accomplishments of the decedent such as awards, trophies and certificates of recognition would be of interest to the family historian. Personal achievements where recognition was bestowed, indicates long-term dedication of the decedent in an activity they loved or dedicated a portion of their life.

Hobbies such as musical interests, craftsmanship, athletic ability, humanitarian or volunteer service would all be of interest and shed some light on the character of the decedent.

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[8], Eighth Disclosing any religious denominational preferences of the decedent

If the decedent were a religious individual, then maybe their church would have additional records concerning their membership and associations. Documents revealing births, marriages, deaths of the decedent and family members would be a treasure to the family historian.

Catholic church's contain one of the best repositories of births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials if your decedent were a devoted Catholic. In my personal library, I have Catholic Church records dating back to the 1700's covering the Saint Louis, Missouri area.

My French ancestors were devoted Catholics and these books have volumes of family history data concerning my ancestors. Don't overlook these tremendous resources containing vital information concerning the decedent and his family.

[9], Ninth interment date

Other than, wrapping up in a neat package the life of the deceased, knowing the interment date completes and establishes the length of time after their death and before their interment.

Lengthy time periods after the death of the deceased and before their interment date might indicate problems with the death. This could be autopsy requirements, family requested delay, or travel arrangements to an out-of-state burial location.

Knowing the interment date and maybe the funeral home that officiated might be another avenue of information concerning the decedent. Many times, the funeral home has records concerning the burial, listing family members, date of interment, location of interment and financial applications concerning the fees associated with the decedent's burial.

[10], Tenth Location of interment

If you are lucky enough, their obituary might reveal the decedent's interment location. You might chuckle thinking something so basic and vital to an obituary is always included but, the truth and reality is...in a great deal of obituaries, the burial location has been omitted.

Knowing the Interment location helps in identifying additional family members who may be buried at the same location. This is especially important concerning out-of-state deaths when a burial location of the decease is requested to a different location other than the place of death.

Incorporating all of the above factors into an obituary would produce a superior obituary and verify and validate vital information concerning the life of a decedent.

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FOR EXAMPLE...

The following is an obituary for my grandfather; Columbus Benjamin Alexander Pratt. My father carried this newspaper obituary around in his wallet for years. Some of the information has been torn and rubbed off and has been lost.

[Missing date, heading, title, name] "Rue ? ? Bourbon, Missouri. To ???? were born six children of which one, Nadine, had preceded him in death at the age of 10 years, December 9, 1937. He leaves to mourn his death his beloved wife, one daughter, Edith Skaggs of Bourbon, four sons, Carl, Ray, and Floyd of St. Louis, and Jim of Bourbon, one sister, Ruth Graddy of Bourbon, four brothers, Jess and Arthur of St. Louis, Virgil of Bourbon and Orville of Kansas City; one sister, Mary and one brother, Alfred had preceded him in death. Three daughters-in-law, one son-in-law, two grand children, three uncles and a host of other relatives and friends. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in World War 1, July 21, 1917, and served until February 10, 1919.

Card of Thanks

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation for the kindness and sympathy shown us in the death of our dear husband and father. Especially thanks to those who sent floral wreaths and to the Neighbors Club and neighbors who lent a helping hand, also the pall bearers and the Shanklin and Adams funeral home, and [missing] Ivie for his words of comfort. Rue Pratt and Family"

As you can see by the above obituary, this obituary raises more questions than it answers.

Unless the missing parts contained his birth and death dates, we are not informed as to these vital dates. Also, his parents are not listed, nor are their burial locations or Columbus' burial location.

Nothing is stated as to who this man really was. What was his occupation? His wife's name other than Rue or any other information.

It appears this obituary was hastily written with not much thought. Grandpa Columbus had been sick with heart trouble when he first consulted a physician in January of 1947 and he died in July 1947 from a heart attack. So, they had plenty of time to think about his demise and write a decent obituary.

You might say, "Sure it's easy to write an obituary after the death of the subject", and I say, "Remember, all of the information I have written in the following obituary was personally **KNOWN** by his family at the time of his death."

The following obituary was written by me, using the 10 guidelines listed above representative of an example of a comprehensive and informative obituary.

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THE OBITUARY OF COLUMBUS "LUM" BENJAMIN ALEXANDER PRATT

By his grandson; Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.



Columbus Benjamin Alexander Pratt known by family and friends as Lum Pratt died on Sunday, the 27th of July 1947 at his home at the old Johnson house at Walnut and Blue Springs Road in Bourbon, Boone Township, Crawford County, Missouri. Lum had suffered from heart trouble for years.

Lum was born on the 1st of December 1893 at Hamilton Hollow in Johnson Township in Washington County, Missouri son of Henry Winslow "Win" and Laura Mary Magdalene (**MISSEY**) Pratt whom are both deceased and buried in the Harrison Cemetery at Vilander, Liberty Township, Crawford County, Missouri.

On the 12th of April 1919, at the Bourbon Methodist Church, Lum was united in marriage to Rue Flavilla (**JOHNSON**) his spouse of 28 years who survives, daughter of Judge James Millard and Mary Jane Theodosia (**BARTON**) Johnson. The Johnsons are buried in the Bourbon Cemetery, Boone Township, Crawford County, Missouri.

Lum was a renowned stonemason and many of his creations, *i.e.*, chimneys, retaining walls and barns in the Crawford County community are still standing today and will for many years as a testimony to his skilled handiwork.

Lum served in the U.S. Army in World War 1 as a horseshoer enlisting on the 21st of July 1917 and honorably discharged the 10th of February 1919. Lum loved to hunt and fish and sometimes drove a commercial truck for various commercial concerns including Gus Hartung of Hartung Transportation Company in Bourbon, Missouri.

Lum and Rue were blessed with 6 children; [1] Mary Edith married Chester Milford Skaggs residing in Bourbon; [2] Carl Benjamin married Mary (**BRESCIA**) Caro Pratt residing in Saint Louis, [3] Roy Lee married Gladys Louise (**EATON**) Anderson Pratt also residing in Saint Louis, [4] Floyd Theodore "Ted" married Delores Virginia (**BROWN**) Pratt residing in Saint Louis, [5] Nadine Wilma Pearl (**PRATT**) born the 5th of April 1929 in Bourbon and died on the 9th of December 1939. [6] James "Jim" Henry married Evellin Juanita (**MILLER**) living in Bourbon.

Also, Lum's siblings; [1] Jesse "Jess" Lee married Nadine Mae (**SKAGGS**) Pratt residing in Saint Louis, [2] Albert "Al" Paris Pratt born the 28th of June 1897 died the 11th of August 1936 in Saint Louis married Mary (**SHEPARD**), [3] Virgil Ranson married Eula Viola (**RICHARDSON**) Pratt residing in Bourbon, [4] Henry Arthur "Art" married Hazel Belle (**COZIAH**) Pratt residing in Saint Louis, [5] Ruth Jane (**PRATT**) married Rufus Allen Graddy residing in Bourbon,

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[6] Mary Center (**PRATT**) born the 12th of June 1907 died the 7th of October 1918 in Bourbon,
[7] Orville Hayes married Mary Olive (**MALLOW**) Pratt residing in Kansas City, Missouri.

Lum's Uncles and Aunts all but Lina deceased; [1] Mary Ellen (**PRATT**) born 27 November 1857 and died 12 January 1928 married James Franklin Studdard, [2] Michael Pratt born June 1860 died before 1870. [3] Stonewall Jackson Newton born 16 September 1861 and died 18 August 1941 married Mary "Mollie" Louise (**TAYLOR**) Pratt, [4] Frances "Fannie" Minerva (**PRATT**) born 6 June 1865 and died 24 February 1934 married 1st Jackman Whiteside, 2nd David McDonald Campbell, [5] Paulina Perlina "Lina" (**PRATT**) born 9 May 1868 and married Thomas Lively Callahan residing near Cherryville, [6] Rhinehart "Rinard" Pratt born March 1873 and died 30 January 1929. [7] Minnie (**PRATT**) born 8 November 1876 and died 4 November 1928 married George William Richter.

Lum's nephews and nieces: Georgia Talmadge (**DAVIDSON**) married Ewing Riggs Sapp of St. Louis; Charlotte Ruth (**DAVIDSON**) married James Clinton Hisaw of St. Louis; Emmett Ray "Junior" Davidson Jr. married Virginia (**JONES**) of St. Louis; Rosalie Ruth (**PRATT**) married James "Jim" William Mayberry of St. Charles County; Thelma Dorothy (**PRATT**); Mary Jesse (**PRATT**); Curtis "Curt" Albert Pratt; Donald Virgil Pratt; Eugene "Gene" Lee Pratt; Dorothy Mae (**GRADDY**) married Ernest Otha Whitaker resident in Vicksburg, Warren County, Mississippi; Mildred Opal (**GRADDY**); William "Bill" Allen Graddy of Bourbon; Hilda Mary (**GRADDY**) married Murrel Clay Phillips of St. Louis; Harold Lee Graddy; Edward "Ed" James Graddy; Evelyn Laura (**GRADDY**); Benjamin "Ben" Lewis Graddy; Donald "Don" Earl Graddy; Cecil Arthur Graddy; Hazel Bell (**GRADDY**); Laird Dean Graddy; Betty Jane (**GRADDY**); Ronald Francis Graddy; Orville Willard Pratt; Kenneth Lee Pratt; Kathleen Mae (**PRATT**)

Officiating was the Shanklin and Adams Funeral Home and Chapel of Bourbon, Missouri.
Special thanks to Rev. A. B. Ivie for his kind words of comfort and love.

Interment was conducted in the Bourbon Cemetery on Tuesday, 29 July 1947 buried next to daughter Nadine. [End]

[Author's note...none of Lum's 14 grandchildren has been born as of his death date.]

The above is a good example of a comprehensive obituary and should be a model for future generations...especially if the church community is willing paying for it.

IN CLOSING...

The above obituary could not be produced after the death of the individual unless there had been prior preparation by gathering this information **before** the individual died.

Asking family history questions concerning the decedent from a grieving widow or children is not productive and yields unreliable information.

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As I started out this article, "the best way to prepare an obituary is while the decedent is still living", makes sense and will produce a detailed, informative and respectful obituary worthy of honoring the decedent.

I can always tell when prior preparation went into an obituary because of the detailed and informative disclosure as revealed in the decedent's life events. I hope all of you will prepare your parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles and children's obituary as well as yours, while they are still alive so future generations will get the facts straight and in this process you bring honor and respect to them and yourself.

Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.
6 January 2015

Pedigree Chart for Floyd Thomas "Tom" Pratt F. H. C., M. A. G. I. by Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

4	Columbus B A Pratt	b. 1 December 1893 p. Hamilton Hollow, Johnson ~ m. 12 April 1919 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~ d. 27 July 1947 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~	8	Henry Winslow "Win" Pratt	b. 6 September 1869 p. near Osage Post Office, J~ m. 29 January 1893 p. Vilander, Liberty Twp, Craw~ d. 24 March 1914 p. near Crow's Creek, Boone~	16	Alexander "Alex" R. Pratt	b. March 1831 d. 1912	32	Henry Pratt	b. 1800-1803
2	Floyd Theodore "Ted" Pratt	b. 6 January 1927 p. near Bourbon, Boone Twp, Crawford~ m. 1 March 1947 p. Saint Clair, Central Twp, Franklin, M~ d. p.	9	Mary L M Missé Missey	b. 20 February 1874 p. Johnson Twp, Washington~ d. 17 April 1938 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~	17	Mary Kimberlin	b. 1835 d. 1876-1880	34	Rhinehart E. Kimberlin	b. 1805
5	Rue Flavilla Johnson	b. 19 March 1894 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~ d. 26 June 1983 p. Briarwood Manor Nursing ~	10	Judge J M Johnson Sr.	b. 29 September 1854 p. Moselle, Central Twp, Frank~ m. 14 May 1884 p. Liberty Twp, Crawford, Mis~ d. 21 May 1941 p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~	18	François C Missé Missey	b. 5 July 1845 d. 26 April 1916	36	Jean B Missé Missey	b. 28 May 1821
1	Floyd T Pratt F. H. C., M. A. G. I.	b. 3 January 1948 p. City Hospital #1, 1515 Lafayette Av~ m. 14 August 1972 p. Tyler Place United Presbyterian Ch~ d. p. sp. Bonnie Kathleen Bach	11	Mary Jane T Barton	b. 18 January 1861 p. near Pine Mountain Post Of~ d. 10 June 1913 p. Walnut Street, Bourbon Vil~	19	Cynthia N. Talbot	b. 3 April 1848 d. 28 March 1896	38	Benjamin "Ben" Talbott	b. 15 June 1811
6	Peter Conley Brown	b. 12 January 1893 p. Sharon, Weakley, Tennes~ m. 16 March 1924 p. Dyer, Tennessee, United S~ d. 3 December 1972 p. Halls, District #8, Lauderdale~	12	John A. Brown	b. May 1844 p. Perry, Tennessee, United ~ m. 18 November 1891 p. Dresden, Weakley, Tenne~ d. 31 July 1928 p. Nashville, Hermitage, Davi~	20	Martin Johnson	b. 22 March 1805 d. 27 September 1859	40	Benjamin Johnson	b. 31 March 1775
3	Delores "Doe" Virginia Brown	b. 31 October 1925 p. City Hospital #1, 1515 Lafayette Av~ d. 1 March 1981 p. Queen of Angels Hospital, 2301 Bel~	13	Obedience "Bedie" Lackey	b. 6 February 1871 p. near District 8 Post Office, ~ d. 14 January 1924 p. Western State Hospital, Bol~	21	Comfort Osborn	b. 10 June 1814 d. 26 April 1877	42	William Osborn	b. 4 July 1777
7	Olga Elmira O'Daniel	b. 11 March 1907 p. Island 21, Dyer, Tennessee~ d. 7 October 1993 p. Los Angeles, Los Angeles~	14	James Leonidas O'Daniel	b. 15 December 1869 p. near Rutherford Post Offic~ m. 22 May 1897 p. Dyer, Tennessee, United S~ d. 8 March 1921 p. Baird-Dulaney Hospital, Dy~	22	William "Billy" Barton	b. 20 November 1831 d. 7 January 1922	44	John Milton Barton	b. 1799
			15	Daisy Dean Bell	b. 7 September 1881 p. District #19, Walnut Grove~ d. 14 May 1920 p. Jackson Crossing, Civil Dist~	23	Harriet King	b. 23 July 1834 d. 3 February 1920	46	Rev. Jonathan King	b. 20 December 1800
						24	Joseph Brown Jr.	b. 1827 d.	48	Joseph Brown Sr.	b. 1785
						25	Catherine	b. 1825 d.	50		b.
						26	William Stevenson Lackey	b. 20 October 1822 d. 7 July 1893	52	Enos Lackey	b. 1797
						27	Nancy Basket Moseley	b. 11 October 1827 d. 20 September 1875	54		b.
						28	Stephen C. O'Daniel	b. 5 December 1812 d. 1881	56	Alexander O'Daniel Sr.	b. Abt 1749
						29	Elizabeth Ellen Gordon	b. 1840 d. 1872	58	John Gordon	b. 1813
						30	John Franklin "Frank" Bell	b. 1 July 1850 d. 1892-1893	60		b.
						31	Hettie M. Jackson	b. 16 December 1861 d. 19 April 1902	62	Alexander Jackson	b. 1840

A Little Something About Your Author.....

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.



At the age of 19, Tom Pratt embarked on a career in law enforcement. This experience gave him training in detective and investigative skills. Little did Mr. Pratt know, how useful these skills would be in the field of genealogy.

Tom Pratt started his family research career in 1975 after becoming a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. His first calling as a new member was to serve in the newly created genealogical department or known today as the Family History Center in the Springfield, Missouri ward. This two-year calling gave Mr. Pratt a tremendous amount of experience helping others to research their families.

In fact, he felt family research came easy and required little effort on his part. In reality, years of reading and studying increased his expertise and he made it look easy to others.

Over the course of several years, Mr. Pratt was asked by his church to instruct several family history courses. This experience established a deep profound love for family and ancestors.

It was not uncommon for Mr. Pratt to spend 4 to 8 hours a day researching and compiling family histories in addition to his duties, as an entrepreneur in the insurance business.

The first major achievement for Mr. Pratt was a breakthrough on his Pratt family back to the early 1800's. Not satisfied with just the direct line research, Mr. Pratt branched out to research all connected lines and allied families.

This dedication led to 42,000 individuals and achieved expert status for Mr. Pratt on the families of middle and eastern Missouri, eastern and western Tennessee and central North Carolina.

Concerning Mr. Pratt's style of research, he is a strong supporter of the "hands on" approach. When he took family vacations, they usually went to libraries, cemeteries, courthouses, National Archive centers, and visited family members in various states. He attended multi-state family reunions and obtained his material from the actual sources when possible.

A Little Something About Your Author.....

Being a researcher of the highest degree, in 1991, Mr. Pratt formed the Pratt Publications Company and offered to the public, a series of books titled, The Pratt Progenitor Papers. This series of volumes are a collection of legal documents, stories, pictures and historical presentations concerning the families of Missouri, Tennessee and North Carolina.

The first three Volumes were released to the public in 1991 and were issued to 18 different libraries including the Library of Congress and the St. Louis Public Library. The next 7 volumes were published with at total of 43 volumes scheduled for publication.

In 1996, Mr. Pratt formed the Genealogical Institute to further the education of serious researchers.

The Genealogical Institute offers a series of educational materials to teach and instruct the uninitiated in the procedures of family history research. These courses offer "a hands on" curriculum designed to instruct in investigative, deductive reasoning and logical procedures for tracking your family history.

Beginners and experienced researchers have found a treasure chest of knowledge when undertaking these courses. Mr. Pratt has taken the hobby of genealogy and has enhanced it into a science. Heavy on instructions concerning documentation, research procedures, alternative sources and common public records, this course is a valuable tool for the researcher. One of Mr. Pratt's favorite sections of the course is teaching researchers "how to stop" researching and compile their information for publication.

Upon completion of the educational courses from the Genealogical Institute, the graduate is awarded the **Master Accreditation of the Genealogical Institute. (M.A.G.I.)**

This designation is equivalent to a Doctorate Degree and signifies the recipient has been trained and demonstrated superior research techniques.

Mr. Pratt's ability in family history research has amazed many educated researchers. When Mr. Pratt is asked for help concerning their "brick wall" in their family research, his quick wit and logical mind rapid fires instructions and procedures so fast they cannot write the material quickly enough. Little do they realize this knowledge has been acquired over 30 years of experience and research.

In June of 2000, Mr. Pratt undertook a new and unprecedented task.

Outside of Washington, Franklin County, Missouri is an old cemetery called the Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery. This cemetery has many pioneer heroes and ancestors of various descendants from that region. Some of the inhabitants were born in the 1750's and traveled west to Missouri after the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

A Little Something About Your Author.....

Mr. Pratt took down all the information off the headstones, including every person in the cemetery and researched each individual related or not. 1000 man-hours and two years later, he published the book "Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery of Franklin County, Missouri"© 2001.

Obtaining newspapers, legal documents, personal interviews with ancestors and researching various sources for any and all information concerning the history of the cemetery and the inhabitants produced this master text. What makes this book stand out among the rest is basic content and structure.

First, it is the only book to cover the known and reported inhabitants of an entire cemetery.

Second, this book reports on each inhabitant, their birth and activities throughout their life until their death, including their ancestors, spouses and children.

Third, even the index is unique, listing the individual and their father's name if known. This is extremely helpful when several individuals have the same given name.

Upon examination, professional researchers have hailed this body of work as a masterpiece and a standard in which all future research of cemeteries should be based. In their opinion, no one has ever produced a body of work about a cemetery as unique and professional as this publication.

Currently, Mr. Pratt is working on a series of books from the [Pratt Archive Collections](#), which is a series of biographical publications concerning a progenitor and a generation of descendants. This collection is a "cradle to grave" report, which covers the subject's ancestry, birth, marriage, children, and geographical domiciles as well as the political environment during the subject's lifetime.

In addition, Mr. Pratt is working on additional volumes of the Pratt Progenitor Papers and several books on public records.

With all these accomplishments, Mr. Pratt humbly refers to himself as a Genealogical Anthropologist...resurrecting progenitors.

We in the genealogical world are deeply grateful to be associates of a man of Mr. Pratt's caliber. Through his dedication to helping the novice as well as the professional researcher, future generations will benefit by his advances in the genealogical field.

In addition, we are thankful for the inspiration that sparks men like Mr. Pratt to magnify their love for people and history. We feel, with a lifetime dedicated to the genealogical pursuit of truth and knowledge, Mr. Pratt's accumulative body of work, will stand as a quintessential manifestation of this divine love.

Lewton Cole, Chairman
Genealogical Institute

GENEALOGY ETIQUETTE

1. Do not give copies or reproduce the information you received from the compiler or author without written permission.
2. In your research efforts if you are able to advance the research, then reciprocate by sharing your research information with the compiler.
3. Use the information you receive as a starting point for your research of your families.
4. If you decide to use information you have received, in a book, document or research material, be sure to acknowledge the author or compiler of that material.
5. All inquiries by third parties for a copy of the material should be forwarded to the original compiler or author.
6. Do not loan or share your information, family heirlooms, special documents, one of a kind, pictures, or irreplaceable materials to non-professional researchers or family members. These types of materials seen to disappear or become damaged.
7. Make copies of important documents or materials when at libraries and be sure to write the name of the book, source, letter or film with the author's name and page number and year of publication.
8. Genealogy work that is not documented is of little value. Remember, you are leaving a trail for those who follow. If future researchers have to verify your work, then of what value is your work?
9. Collect family stories from those relatives who are still alive. This is a short cut to your past and they hold a world of knowledge about your family.
10. Do not try to finance all your research alone. Ask for financial assistance from interested family members.

Remember, the family history information that is so easily exchanged today by computer was acquired over years and years of on-site research. While many were engaged in raising families, working for income, and surviving, genealogist researchers did these things **AND** spent their free time in pursuit of the truth about their ancestors. This pursuit required great sacrifice of time, effort and money. Many researchers went to the actual locations to view the marriage, deed, death and birth records including visiting the cemeteries across the United States and foreign countries. This is why it is important to follow the above guidelines; by doing so, you give respect to their work and honor to their memory. Thank You.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

4000 20th Street West Apt 113, Bradenton, FL 34205 941-209-1701